

YALE NURSING MATTERS

PERSEVERING
THROUGH A PANDEMIC

VOLUME 21 | NUMBER 2



Volume 21, Number 2

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Yale Nursing Matters is published twice a year by
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- *"This course is exceptional! One of the best I've done here at Coursera, and the best I've done at Yale. The biggest positive point is the fact that it contains references and current discussions, data from recent years, etc. Teachers, videos, readings, assessments and other resources are of great quality. I was really able to understand the importance and benefits of the QMNC Framework."*
- *"This was an incredibly insightful and well-taught course. I was so appreciative to break away from fully Western standards, to learn from educators all over the world. This was a person-centered, inclusive, and culturally sensitive course that was thoroughly enjoyable and useful."*

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MESSAGE FROM THE DEAN



As we reflect on this year, we continue to live with the impact of Covid-19. The US has counted nearly 49 million cases and 800,000 deaths, health systems remain strained, and the emergence of the omicron variant reminds us how unpredictable this new virus can be. We should not overlook the moments of success. Across the university, 98% of students, 95% of faculty, and 92% of staff were fully vaccinated as of late September, in part with the help of our students. Booster shots are now available to everyone over 18, and symptomatic and asymptomatic testing is available. Nonetheless, the sequelae of this inequitable pandemic continues to impact communities, economies — and health workers — everywhere.

In this year as during last, our faculty and staff have adapted to changing conditions at home and in the office numerous times. Faculty have continued their science for impact, testing new interventions and sharing research findings through journal publications. YSN disseminated a toolkit of effective COVID control practices for nursing homes, addressing one of the most vulnerable populations. With great support from our staff, faculty have embraced a variety of approaches to strengthen student learning in the classroom or virtually, including by addressing the “social determinants of learning” through our Academic Success Team model. New faculty who onboarded during the pandemic have been warmly welcomed by our community.

This fall, the university launched its \$7 billion For Humanity campaign, and we are delighted that Linda Rodman ’73, ’75 MA, in partnership with her husband, Larry ’16 MEM was inspired to make a \$6 million gift to YSN — the single largest in our history — for The Rodman Family Professorship. This unprecedented gift creates a new full-time ladder faculty position that will be held by an expert devoted to gerontology in their research, teaching, and practice, and it also provides strong momentum at the start of our campaign, “For Humanity – For Better Health For All.”

We shared this information at our annual State of the School presentation, during which we saluted faculty work in supporting our students’ progress, launching the clinical DNP and the pediatric acute care NP degrees, continuing scientific contributions, and accounting for our global QS index ranking of 5th School of Nursing in the US — the same as Yale School of Medicine’s ranking this year. We celebrate the many ways our faculty, students, staff, preceptors, and alumni have served over this year and in the everyday work you each do. Thank you all for all you do, to #AnswerTheCall.

Be safe, stay well, and sincere wishes for a healthy 2022.

Ann Kurth ’90 MSN, PhD, CNM, MPH, FAAN
Dean and Linda Koch Lorimer Professor of Nursing

THE WORLD IS CALLING. WE ANSWER. WE ARE YALE NURSES.

Office of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Director Maurice Nelson, MeD, CDE with volunteer Rachel Romero '22 MSN, an FNP student, who helped sign-in guests and directed them to the various displays and goodies at the Yale Nursing Fall Fest.



SPOTLIGHT NEWS

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Don't worry,
I have allergies
not COVID-19



YSN PARTNERS ON **FREE** COVID-19 TOOL FOR LONG-TERM CARE FACILITIES



*Dr. Carmen Portillo, PhD, RN, FAAN
Executive Deputy Dean*



*Dr. Nicole Colline, DNP, FNP-C, MSN, BSN
Specialty Director for Family Nurse
Practitioner Program*

Yale School of Nursing (YSN) faculty, in partnership with The New York Academy of Medicine (NYAM), Saraya Co. Ltd., and Best Sanitizers, Inc., have designed and produced a first-of-its-kind infection prevention resource to give long-term care facilities the tools they need to battle COVID-19 and other infections. The [“Infection Prevention Compendium for Long-Term Care Facilities”](#) is available online for free.

“From a clinical standpoint, no compendium with this level of depth and breadth exists,” said Executive Deputy Dean [Dr. Carmen Portillo](#), PhD, RN, FAAN, who wrote the project’s proposal and whose research career includes HIV infection prevention. “Everything a facility could need is organized here in one place.”

As the compendium states, “Healthcare-associated infections are a major cause of morbidity and mortality in long-term care facilities. Evidenced-based information is the key to preventing devastating outcomes from infection outbreaks and combating future pandemics.”

FIRSTHAND EXPERIENCE ON THE COVID FRONTLINES

The collection draws, in part, on the experience of Specialty Director for Family Nurse Practitioner (FNP) program [Dr. Nicole Colline](#), DNP, FNP-C, MSN, BSN, the Nurse Practitioner for a 120-bed long-term care facility in Connecticut that was on the frontlines of the pandemic starting in early March 2020.

“Every person’s role is important during COVID and every person’s role changed during COVID,” Dr. Colline said. “That’s why the compendium goes beyond the measures taken by nurses and Certified Nursing Assistants (CNAs). We designed this resource to cover everyone from the receptionist you meet at the front door to the kitchen staff, laundry services, and family members who are part of the facility’s ecosystem.”

In one example, Dr. Colline described how something as simple as the standard water pitcher in every room needed to be rethought. To prevent infection, her facility switched from reusable pitchers to a disposable version. That one change meant alerting the person who orders supplies, as well as the cleaning staff, the clinical providers, visitors and family members, and everyone else who might enter a resident’s room and fulfill their request for a drink of water.

EXPERIENCED LEADERSHIP

Dr. Elaine Larson, RN, PhD, FAAN, CIC, served as the nexus of the compendium partnership. In addition to serving as the editor of the American Journal of Infection Control for 25 years and authoring more than 200 papers on hand hygiene, her relationship with Saraya goes back 10 years, she is a senior scholar-in-residence at NYAM and has also engaged in consulting projects with YSN.

Larson said the compendium serves a huge need for a vulnerable and often forgotten population.

“COVID-19 highlighted the inequities and problems in nursing homes,” she said. “Much less attention is paid to long-term care facilities than to acute care spaces. And while there is a lot of available information about preventing infection, until now it hasn’t been curated and compiled into one place.”

“For many staff in long-term care facilities, infection control takes a back seat to making residents feel cared for and cared about. You need touching in long-term care, and not just for patients who have intimate needs. For many of these care providers, their primary goal is to make residents as happy as they can. Sometimes that comforting touch interferes with social distancing and masking, which patients living with Alzheimer’s or dementia don’t understand.”

REACHING DIRECT-CARE PROVIDERS

“One of our goals for this product was to make it very practical and get it into the hands of direct-care providers,” said Elana Kieffer, MBA, Acting Director of the NYAM’s Center for Healthy Aging. Kieffer previously worked in a long-term care facility, stating that it was just one of more than 15,000 across the country

serving approximately 1.4 million residents.

Mario Rubano, MPH, Policy Associate at the Center for Healthy Aging and a former Kieffer coworker at the same long-term care facility, echoed Kieffer’s sentiment. “So much of the information out there is overly academized, and we wanted to make it digestible and actionable. We want providers to access the toolkit and immediately put it into practice.”

“I’ve been at YSN for four years and this is an example of the kind of work our faculty do to bring better health to all people and to answer the call when the world needs nurses. I’m very proud that YSN was able to respond and make this contribution,” Dr. Portillo said.

ADDITIONAL YSN COLLABORATORS

Other YSN compendium collaborators include Former Director of Simulation Ginger Sherrick, MSN, APRN, FNP-BC, RN-BC, CHSE, who designed the five modules for nurses, families, administrators, specialized contract providers such as occupational therapists, and the residents themselves. Associate Professor of Nursing [Dr. Julie Womack](#) ’94 MSN, ’08 PhD, CNM, FNP-BC and Senior Administrative Assistant Olivia Buckholz also contributed.

RODMAN '73, '75 MA MAKES LARGEST GIFT TO NURSING IN SCHOOL'S HISTORY

Linda Rodman '73, '75 MA, in partnership with her husband, Larry '16 MEM recently made a \$6 million gift to Yale School of Nursing (YSN)—the single largest in the institution's nearly 100-year history—and they are now saluted as the most generous Yale alumni donors to YSN. The Rodman Family Professorship creates a new full-time ladder faculty position that will be held by an expert devoted to gerontology in their research, teaching, and practice.

Rodman cited multiple inspirations for the extraordinary commitment to YSN, including interactions with outstanding hospital nurses who recently cared for her aging mother and the dedicated team that helped her daughter through preeclampsia during the delivery of her babies. Her interest in gerontology was fueled by her societal observations as a leadership consultant and executive coach.

Rodman also cited some statistics as representative of the trend: "By 2030, all baby boomers will be over 65, and this age group will then represent 20% of the US population. Also, Mercer estimates that by 2025 (a mere four years out), the US will face a collective shortage of about 500,000 home health aides, 100,000 nursing assistants, and 29,000 nurse practitioners."

Rodman's view is that much of that shortfall in care will pertain to the gerontological population. So, the need for expertise and dedication to the area is compelling.

"There is a tsunami of people entering the golden years now and not enough focus on them. A significant portion of the burden of taking care of this aged population will be nurses, and we wanted to enable Yale to be at the forefront in addressing this pressing need."

[Dean Ann Kurth](#) '90 MSN, PhD, CNM, MPH, FAAN described the forward-looking gift as a powerful tool for attracting top talent and a welcoming signal to other philanthropists who value Nursing's mission to bring better health for all people.

"This new endowed professorship will complement the school's robust strength in gerontologic nursing and establish a secure future for research and teaching to produce new generations of nurse practitioners and nurse scientists to provide evidence-based care for the country's aging population," said Kurth. "We are profoundly grateful for Linda's attention to this burgeoning area and are determined to set the standard for nursing expertise at this stage of the lifespan."

Nurses specializing in gerontology receive training specific to the needs of older people, who are vulnerable to accident, multiple chronic illnesses, and neurodegenerative diseases like Alzheimer's and other forms of dementia. These advanced practice nurses address the care and management of both chronic conditions common among seniors and the shifting metabolic responses to medication and treatment that accompany advanced age.

DISCOVERING YALE NURSING

Linda credits expert guidance from gift officer Reggie Solomon '98 for her discovery of Yale Nursing. Solomon first started working with Rodman a decade ago and has introduced her to University niches that she



Linda Rodman '73, '75 MA (right) and her husband, Larry '16 MEM.



Linda Rodman matriculated with the first cohort of women admitted to Yale College in 1969.

didn't experience firsthand during her years on campus.

"Reggie helped us find the Nursing School," Rodman said. "We were looking for a meaningful niche, and he suggested underfunded schools where the graduates

earn less money than Yale's other professional programs. After quickly considering the options, we realized that YSN would be a perfect match for our interests. We fervently admired what Dean Kurth is doing and took a tour of the school. The more we learned about it, the more we appreciated it. We are proud that we have enabled YSN to become an appreciably stronger institutional leader in this area."

A trailblazer who matriculated with the first cohort of women admitted to Yale College in 1969, Rodman's longstanding love for Yale founded during her deeply fulfilling and memorably enjoyable Bulldog days also played a role.

A HISTORY OF PHILANTHROPY
Linda and Larry have previously established an endowed scholarship at YSN with a preference for students interested in gerontology. Inspired by the contribution of nurses during the COVID-19 global

pandemic, they have also generously supported the dean's discretionary fund.

The most recent gift for the gerontology professorship is supported by their burgeoning family of Yalies, including daughter Tara Rodman '07, son Max Rodman '10, and Tara's husband, Jesse Wolfson '08. The family members had many passions while at Yale, including psychology, the environment, social service, theater, math, and lacrosse. However, a deep appreciation of nursing is an area they all align around.

"The Rodman Family Professorship supports innovation and capacity for the school," said Dean Kurth, reflecting on the lasting institutional impact of professorships established at YSN.

The gift provides momentum for the school at the start of the university's new "For Humanity" campaign, an effort to raise \$7 billion that launched in October.



In addition to Linda and Larry, the Rodman family includes daughter Tara Rodman '07, son Max Rodman '10, Tara's husband, Jesse Wolfson '08, and grandchildren Leo Rodman and Naomi Wolfson.



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NEW ASSOCIATE DEAN FOR EQUITY RICHARD-EAGLIN ARRIVES AT YALE NURSING

September marked the on-campus arrival of Dr. Angela Richard-Eaglin, DNP, FNP-BC, CNE, FAANP, Yale School of Nursing (YSN)'s first fulltime Associate Dean for Equity (ADE). A member of Dean Kurth's senior leadership team, Dr. Richard-Eaglin collaborates with stakeholders across the YSN and Yale communities.

Dr. Richard-Eaglin entered the position during a national reckoning with racism and COVID-19's exposure of longstanding structural disparities in health care.



During the past few years, the YSN community has discussed racism, microaggressions, health inequity, and other issues and interactions. In the past two years, YSN founded the [Inclusion, Diversity, Equity Action Solution \(IDEAS\) Council](#) and in 2019 made an initial [Commitment to Anti-Racism](#), laying out a variety of action areas. A recent article (Knopf 2021) noted that YSN was one of only ten top schools of nursing whose statements on racism touched on all six elements outlined in anti-racism statements made by national nursing [organizations](#). Yale now requires all units at the university to create diversity, equity, inclusion and belonging (DEIB) [plans](#). With the support of Maurice Nelson, director of YSN's Office of DEI – which Dr. Richard-Eaglin oversees – all YSN constituencies had the opportunity this summer to weigh in on the school's updated DEIB plan.

“Honesty, integrity, and ethics are at the top of my list of important virtues,” said Dr. Richard-Eaglin. “I’ve read all about the challenges that YSN has had in the space of anti-racism, anti-oppression, and diversity, equity, inclusion, and belonging. What impressed me during my interview process was that everyone I interacted with was honest and transparent about those challenges and about the work yet to be done. I have made a lifelong commitment to being a leader and a partner in creating meaningful and lasting changes from a humanitarian perspective, and I’m excited that YSN has like-minded people who are also committed to advancing racial and social justice.”

“Dr. Richard-Eaglin is an outstanding addition to the YSN community,” said [Dean Ann Kurth](#) ’90 MSN, PhD, CNM, MPH, FAAN. “As a nurse faculty leader she is a tireless champion for expanding diversity and inspiring cultural intelligence and cultural humility in health professions education and clinical practice. I look forward to collaborating with her, faculty, students, and staff as we all chart the school’s path forward.”

Dr. Richard-Eaglin envisions using a scaffolding approach that builds on a foundation of sincerity and authenticity.

“I think that establishing a culture of trust has to be a priority,” she said. “I liken this process to therapy. In order to repair any fractured relationship, all involved parties must be willing to take on some accountability for repairing the relationship and must also be committed to being fully and intentionally engaged in the process. This can be accomplished with a series of workshops that include consistent follow-up assessments and timely interventions.”

As a Certified Professional Cultural Intelligence (CQ) and Unconscious Bias Facilitator and Coach, Dr. Richard-Eaglin has developed customized workshops that inform practicing health professionals, health professions educators, students, researchers, and staff on the application of CQ to

organizational wellness, bias management, and mitigation of bias-influenced health outcomes.

“DEIB strategies have to become a part of the fabric of the school in such a way that it IS the culture; it has to be integrated with intent so that it is sustainable and implicitly and explicitly apparent,” she said. “The school cannot shy away from implementing approaches that create accountability and responsibility at all levels for all stakeholders.”

LOOKING AHEAD

Dr. Richard-Eaglin anticipates a variety of developments and supports for everyone at YSN. These include curriculum design processes that are already underway, policy development and reform, DEIB/anti-racism/anti-oppression integration into the framework of the school, recruitment and retention efforts for faculty, staff, and students, and clear and consistent accountability processes for all stakeholders.

“Integrating cultural intelligence throughout the nursing programs will give faculty and students the tools to develop and maintain

a sense of global cultural consciousness and to apply those concepts to organizational equilibrium and wellness, bias management, mitigation of bias-influenced outcomes, and translation of those skills to clinical practice,” she said. “This all translates to critical consciousness and has the potential to advance the movement towards systems change, health equity, and improved health outcomes for black, indigenous, people of color.”

“We are proud to welcome Dr. Angela Richard-Eaglin to Yale,” said Secretary and Vice President for University Life [Kimberly M. Goff-Crews](#) ’83, ’86 JD. “Dr. Richard-Eaglin is a leader in diversity, equity, and inclusion work and is attuned to the needs of nursing students. I am confident that she will be a strong asset to YSN and the greater university community.”

Dr. Richard-Eaglin is hopeful about the future direction of the school.

“I want to show that YSN can be the exemplar, the model of excellence in the space of DEIB on-campus and beyond, to advance health equity for everyone,” she said.



Dr. Richard-Eaglin (center) attends the ODEI Fall Fest in October.

ASSOCIATE DEAN OF DEVELOPMENT & ALUMNI STARTS AHEAD OF UNIVERSITY'S CAPITAL CAMPAIGN



Gail McCulloch recently arrived at Yale School of Nursing (YSN) as the new Associate Dean for Development and Alumni Affairs, just ahead of the university's "For Humanity" capital campaign that launched in October.

"I am thrilled to join the YSN community at such a pivotal time," McCulloch said. "The COVID-19 global pandemic has made clear the critical role that nurses play in our health care system, and the school's mission to bring better health to all people is an inspiring one. I am looking forward to meeting all my colleagues to help fulfill this goal."

McCulloch is an experienced professional in higher education fundraising, working with donors at all levels of commitment from annual giving to eight-figure gifts. She arrives from Stony Brook University where over the last six

years she built development programs for the School of Journalism and the Alan Alda Center for Communicating Science as their Director of Development and Alumni Relations.

In addition to fundraising major gift solicitations from individuals, foundations, and corporations while at Stony Brook, McCulloch was the liaison for external partnerships, and she led Giving Day and other strategic event planning and implementation.

"Gail's entrepreneurial spirit and proven success will serve her well in this role at a crucial time," said Dean Ann Kurth '90 MSN, PhD, CNM, MPH, FAAN. "Not only are we considering the wider university's efforts that began in the fall, but also the school's centennial in 2023."

One of McCulloch's previous appointments was with the University of Michigan as Director of Development and Gift Planning for the School of Public Health (UM-SPH), where for over a decade she helped the school meet its campaign goal of \$100 million to support research, students, faculty, programs, centers, and service projects.

McCulloch managed UM-SPH's volunteer board and coordinated the Michigan Difference and Victors for Michigan campaign goal for \$45 million, doubling it to \$100 million. Gail

oversaw multiple fundraising events including donor cultivation activities, alumni gatherings, and major donor recognition. While at UM-SPH, Gail also strengthened the corporate giving program and initiated the first public/private partnership plan for the school.

SCHOOL OF NURSING

.....

for Humanity
THE YALE CAMPAIGN

YSN CO-HOSTS INTERNATIONAL CLIMATE CONFERENCE



Yale School of Nursing (YSN) partnered with the Global Alliance of Universities on Climate (GAUC) to cohost the “Graduate Forum & Global Youth Summit on Net-Zero Future,” on October 28.

Yale University President Peter Salovey welcomed attendees from across the globe.

“At Yale we believe strongly in the power of research and education,” he said. “Our efforts are rooted in the work taking place across the whole university as part of our [Planetary Solutions Project](#). This university-wide initiative calls on Yale to provide leadership in tackling environmental challenges that threaten life on Earth and to use the campus as a laboratory for implementing the best technologies, policies, and ideas.”

In her remarks for a session on climate, food, and health, [Dean Ann Kurth](#) ’90 MSN, PhD, CNM, MPH, FAAN highlighted the urgency of addressing climate change now.

“We know the climate crisis is here. We know the impact on human health is already present and will accelerate. And we also know that there are things that we can and must do,” she said. “Your generation has a great burden, as do all of us on the planet at the moment. Both for contributing to actionable solutions and also for continuing to activate and advocate.”

“The health sector has a crucial role to play, both in mitigating its greenhouse gas emissions and environmental impact, and also to be adapted and prepared to address the needs of population displacement, extreme weather events, heat waves, drought, flooding, and all the elements that we know are part of this climate crisis,” she said.

Dean Kurth encouraged the audience to consider the research of Harvard social scientist Dr. Erica Chenoweth, who has studied civil resistance campaigns over the past century. Dr. Chenoweth concluded that no government was able to withstand a challenge of 3.5% of its population resisting without either accommodating or disintegrating.

“Literally a small proportion of people can make a huge difference in where large structures go, and we know that we need large structural approaches,” Dean Kurth said.

Associate Dean for Global Affairs & Planetary Health [Dr. LaRon Nelson](#), PhD, RN, FNP, FNAP, FAAN moderated a discussion that included a talk from Dr. Kai Chen, PhD, of the Yale School of Public Health (YSPH). Dr. Chen is an Assistant Professor of Epidemiology at YSPH and the Director of Research at the Yale Center on Climate Change and Health. His talk was titled “Climate Change and Health: Connecting the Dots.”

Dr. Nelson praised the faculty and student speakers throughout the event and reflected on the proposed action steps.

“I think today was an opportunity for us to really think about not just the impact of climate change on health but also on systems that we rely on to nourish and sustain our health, like food. There are multiple potential impacts of climate change but also what we heard today were multiple ways that we can contribute to not just mitigation but also adaption through different interventions.”

This year’s forum was cohosted by Yale, Tsinghua University (China), Imperial College (United Kingdom), Cambridge University (United Kingdom), and Columbia University.

A recording of the event is available online at the [YSN YouTube channel](#).



ODEI WELCOMES YSN COMMUNITY TO FALL FEST

On the kind of day that prompts residents to extoll the superior glories of a New England fall, the Yale School of Nursing (YSN) Office of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (ODEI) welcomed students, faculty, and staff to Fall Fest: A Family Affair on October 21. More than 150 attendees enjoyed music, treats, trivia, and fellowship.



As guests circulated among the tables of kettle corn, assorted cookies, and information stations, Associate Dean for Equity [Dr. Angela Richard-Eaglin](#), DNP, FNP-BC, CNE, FAANP, highlighted the importance of ODEI interacting with colleagues and scholars.

“Today was a wonderful opportunity to engage with members of the YSN community across all constituencies and to introduce our office to our stakeholders and let them know we are here for them in any capacity that they need us,” she said. “We also made sure to have a virtual option for community members who were unable to attend in person. This event is just one step in fostering the culture of inclusive excellence that we aspire to achieve. We know that YSN has had some challenges in these areas, and we are determined to build on the school’s previous efforts to make positive, measurable improvements.”

Lecturer in Nursing and Student Equity Coordinator [Heather Reynolds](#) ’80 MSN, CNM, FACNM, distributed material on how to intervene in bias incidents. Techniques include offering help to whomever is being targeted, naming the problem publicly, and disrupting the situation.

“Folks can feel shocked in the moment they’re witnessing a bias incident, but these tips are designed to help them feel more prepared to take action safely and reach a positive outcome. We’re hoping to get volunteers from faculty, staff, and students to facilitate training of their peers in these intervention techniques,” Reynolds said.

ODEI Director [Maurice Nelson](#), MeD, CDE, and Senior Administrative Assistant [Eddie Quiles](#) not only conceptualized and spearheaded this event but both were everywhere at once, directly contributing to creating the sense of camaraderie and belonging that was expressed by so many who attended. Mastering the playlist, cheering on cornhole games and hula hoop enthusiasts, and distributing swag bags.

“Since I arrived earlier this year, I have connected with so many of our faculty, staff,

and students,” Nelson said. “But I am thankful that this event allowed us to talk and laugh (and play giant Jenga) in person.”

Quiles also directed guests to try the trivia, and it’s safe to say that everybody learned something. For example, the school was founded in 1923 and the centennial is just two years away. YSN admitted the first African American students in 1944, and the first male graduate is a member of the Class of 1955.

Senior Administrative Assistant for the PhD Program Lorena Fonte and Senior Administrative Assistant for the Office of Global Affairs and Planetary Health Mary Ann Marshak staffed a YSN Wellness information station. Visitors gleaned tips on mental wellness self-care, stress management techniques, and an enthusiastic invitation to join the virtual Turkey Trot in November.

Family Nurse Practitioner (FNP) student Disa Yoo ’23 MSN engaged with guests about the [Addiction Medicine Collaborative](#), an interdisciplinary student organization among the Yale health professional schools. The group seeks to collaboratively enhance professional and public education concerning substance use; to promote and foster the interests of students, health professionals, and advocates for substance use assistance and recovery; and to encourage scholarly inquiry concerning substance use disorders as they impact health care professionals and the public.

Volunteer Rachel Romero ’22 MSN, also an FNP student, signed in guests and directed them to the various displays and goodies. “I was excited to be a part of Fall Fest because we weren’t able to celebrate last year, and I really enjoy coming together as a school,” she said. “Being able to gather in a safe way outside of the classroom was a welcome break. Thank you to the Office of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion for putting together such a fun event!”

Community members can reach out to ODEI at ysn.diversity@yale.edu.

This event was also cosponsored by the Dean’s Office.



From left to right, Dawei Chen, Elizabeth Weiss, Shreen Dubey, Luis Vera, Sajni Persad, Katherine Duarte, Leoncia Gillespie, and Kristen Nocka get together for a photo-op at the 2021 GEPN Certificate Ceremony.



STUDENT MATTERS

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- 26 DNP Student Torres Creates Climate Change and Renal Health Toolkik
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Shreen Dubey

Luis Vera

Katherine Dugan

Leoncia Gillespie

Kristen Nocla

GEPNS GATHER IN PERSON TO CHEER COHORT'S FIRST BIG MILESTONE

On October 22, the [Graduate Entry Prespecialty in Nursing](#) (GEPN) students swapped their scrubs for dressier duds and cheered their classmates in a celebration of their first significant milestone: the nursing certificate ceremony, signaling the successful completion of their first year and taking the NCLEX licensing exam.



[Dean Ann Kurth](#) '90 MSN, PhD, CNM, MPH, FAAN saluted the 98 GEPNs for their decision to join the nation's most trusted profession after a year unlike any other.

"Every GEPN class is unique in its own way, that is without a doubt, but your cohort will never know a nursing career before COVID-19," she said. "You saw the waves flood and ebb. You observed the rounds of testing and the vaccination efforts. Many of you were involved with them. Faced with this immense challenge, you raised your hands and applied to Yale and said: 'I want to help.' This is what Yale GEPNs and the APRNs they become, do."

Lecturer in Nursing [Wendy Mackey](#) '93 MSN, APRN-BC, MSN, CORLN provided the main address and discussed the essence of nursing.

"The things that truly matter when people get sick or are in a time of crisis is the connection to humanity, being present at times of need, and the provision of competent professional care to individuals. To make a difference in our patient's lives," Mackey said.

"As nurses, we are present — to provide care, hope, inspiration, guidance, and education — in the happiest and darkest moments, and sometimes — especially over the past 18 months — we are the only listening ear and hand to hold when our patients are alone."

Starting a new tradition this year, GEPN Chair

[Dr. Sascha James-Contarelli](#), DNP, CNM, LM, FACNM, FAAN presented custom YSN stethoscope tags as a gift from the school.

"I encourage you to place this tag on your stethoscope, the one that you take with you to your clinical every day, and wear it with great pride. And on those days when things may not be going quite the way you expected, you can look at the tag and remember that you thrived during your accelerated graduate entry year of nursing, during a pandemic, and online!"

In addition to seeing event video on the on the [YSN YouTube channel](#), viewers can also enjoy the accompanying sounds of a string trio featuring Yale School of Music students Miriam Liske-Doorandish '22, Adam Newman '22, and Kate Arndt '26.

Many congratulations to all the GEPN students:

A-D

Ruka Ademola
Mahwish Askari
Rashea Banks
Courtney Barlotta
Morgan Beans
Melia Bernal
Emily Borland
Will Bruno
Grace Buchloh
Meredith Campbell
Marissa Chantorn
Monica Checa
Dawei Chen
Yeqi Chen
Kendall Cote
Carlie Davis
Helen Day
Nicole Devaney

Rachel Drake
Katherine Duarte
Shreen Dubey
Olivia Dumont
Eva Dunder
Sam Duplantis

E-K

Ashleigh Evans
Lee Fleisher
Olivia Footer
Hannah Frankel
Stacey Frizzell
Chris Fusco
Leoncia Gillespie
Elizabeth Grant
Lauren Greenberg
Candace Gregg
Kwaku (Joseph) Gyasi
Liz Hammond
Emily Houston
Alyssa Jang
Jenilee Jaquez
Crystal Johnson
Cami Jones
Shannon Jones
Lucila Kaisin
Chloe Kiester
Grace Kim
Emily Knowles
Ameya Krishnan

L-P

Kendrick Lau
Dana Lefland
Kathleen Lessard
Molly Levene
Jessica Levine
Lauren Lewis
Kendell Lincoln
Sarah Logan
Kylee Martin
Erin McGrath
Frankie McLaurin
Grace Mills
Briana Mitchell
Daniel Modlinger
Helen Montie
Renata Ndahayo
Riana Nicolaysen

Kristen Nocka
Ali Olson
Uche Onyebuchi
Ruby Parris
Shayla Partridge
Harriet Perdikaris
Sajni Persad
Haley Pleskow

Q-Z

Jordan Quintin
Erica Rayack
Ellie Reck
Kevin Richardson
Jonathan Roberts
Kaitlyn Roberts
Elana Rosenberg
Marina Rosenberg
Devin Shaheen
Maxwell Shaw-Jones
Neelu Shruti
Melinda Silva Grant
Tayisha St Vil
Olivia Stillman
Ada Udaya
Ben Venter
Luis Vera
Max Vieira
Shiliu Wang
Sarah Weas
Elizabeth Weiss
Shinelle Wilkins
Dylan Williams
Disa Yoo
Nathan Yuen
Yacoba Zwennes





Graduate Entry Prespecialty in Nursing

Excellence in preparation for nursing and an advanced clinical specialty

GEPN is the first of a three-year, full-time course of study designed for students whose academic experiences lie outside of nursing. YSN was the first in the nation to create such a dynamic program—and 50 years later we are still producing the Advanced Practice Registered Nurse (APRN) leaders that the nation and the world need.

Students experience acute-care hospital units and community settings, among others, to achieve YSN's mission of better health for all people.

The faculty have refreshed the curriculum to include both traditional and alternative pedagogical approaches, drawing on resources from across the university to shape the next generation of outstanding APRNs.

Upon completion of the prespecialty year, students advance into graduate clinical training. After earning their Certificate in Nursing and a license to practice in Connecticut, GEPN students join their RN colleagues to attain MSN degrees. This stellar program helps Yale nurses answer the call.

GRE & Minimum GPA

Scores from the GRE General Exam are no longer required for GEPN and RN-MSN applicants with a cumulative GPA from their conferred bachelor's degree of 3.0 and higher. Weighted average will be used for those with more than one bachelor's degree.

Learn more at nursing.yale.edu/academics.

DNP STUDENT TORRES CREATES CLIMATE CHANGE AND RENAL HEALTH TOOLKIT



DNP student Christie Torres, MSN, RN, APRN, FNP-BC recently created “Climate Change and Renal Health: Awareness and Education Toolkit for Healthcare Providers.” As Torres points out, because the kidney has a unique role in providing protection from heat and dehydration and is an important site of heat stress related illness, climate change poses a significant concern.

The resource is designed to increase professional awareness and knowledge of climate change, including risk factors, signs

and symptoms, social determinants of health, and patient quality of care issues.

The toolkit launched in the fall to help the Central Texas Veterans Health Care System (CTVHCS), Temple facility move forward with efforts to inform both staff and veterans of ways to prepare for projected climate change-heat impact on renal health.

As Torres writes in the introduction, there is a sense of urgency to take action.

“Globally, temperatures are not getting any cooler and kidney disease numbers are not getting smaller. Therefore, we must plan appropriately to manage this growing threat by raising [Healthcare Provider] HCP awareness about climate change and renal health, so that our communities, organizations, and patients can take action toward prevention and early detection.”

Torres also writes that she hopes the resource will encourage providers to take similar steps.

“It is my hope that this toolkit will not only inform and educate about the connection between climate change and health, but that it will also serve as a reference and

an inspiration to ignite your professional journey in addressing and preparing your patients and the VA for related health impacts where all can flourish.”



N95 MASK FITTINGS SIGNAL START OF NURSING YEAR



After months of applying, waiting, and preparing, new Nursing students launched the next phase of their careers in August with their first piece of clinical equipment: a well-fitted N95 mask.

The process starts with a student wearing one of three sizes of mask and then donning a plastic, cylindrical hood. A member of the Simulation faculty injects a highly concentrated saccharine spray into the small chamber, and asks the student to perform a series of actions to test the fit.

They recite “The Rainbow Passage,” a text designed to move facial muscles through common speech patterns. They smile and frown and walk around a bit, constantly waiting to taste sugar. If the spray has penetrated the N95, the mask doesn’t fit correctly, and it needs to be swapped for

another size or other adjustments might be made. But if the steps are completed without a sugar rush, success is sweet.

The new class also collected nursing kits filled with the gear they’ll need for simulation labs this semester: from surgical gloves and a blood pressure cuff to a needle packet and suction catheter kit.

A Variety of Professional Experience

The incoming Graduate Entry Prespecialty in Nursing (GEPN) Program students aren’t required to have a healthcare background, although many do.

Adult Gerontology Primary Care specialty student Kyle Durand has been working in healthcare for the past five years as an EMT and said becoming a Bulldog was not a tough decision.

“I knew I wanted to become an NP, and this is the best program in Connecticut,” Durand said. “Yale was an easy choice.”

Durand is a veteran of the N95 process, but this was the first fitting for Psychiatric-Mental Health specialty student Vanessa Acosta.

“I heard about the program from an alum and they had nothing but excellent things to say about it,” Acosta said. “I’m really looking forward to working with all the amazing faculty.”

Samantha Nebiolo also had her first N95 fitting on West Campus. She has been working as a doula for four years and said the COVID-19 pandemic really changed her work, prompting her to apply to YSN and pursue her goal of becoming a midwife.

Midwifery and Women’s Health specialty student Vanessa Landegger, MPH, is transitioning from a teaching role over the past decade into being a student herself this year.

Family Nurse Practitioner (FNP) specialty student Natalie Alvarado, MPH cited YSN’s oncology concentration and the ability to explore environmental factors in a university setting that includes Yale School of the Environment as great assets for the program.

Fellow FNP student Michelle Dickey shared that her mother’s oncologist is a YSN FNP alum who was enthusiastic about how well the program prepared her for a nursing career.

Meghan Wales, a Psychiatric Mental Health specialty student, studied at Boston Children’s Hospital with a program alum who inspired her to apply to YSN.

Sabrina Caramando arrives as an Adult Gerontology Primary Care student who always knew she wanted to go into healthcare. She was pre-med for a while in undergrad, but ultimately chose a more naturopathic route that was less centered on Western medicine. She is now looking forward to nursing as a patient-centered care option.

New students were greeted by a welcoming committee that included Associate Dean of Student Life and Belonging Saveena Dahl, M.A.; Associate Director of Admissions and Financial Aid Wesley Revangil, MBA; and Student Services Coordinator Triana McCown, who handed out Yale blue welcome bags, iPads, ID cards, lanyards, lunch totes and YSN tumblers.

NEW NURSING STUDENTS UNDETERRED BY COVID-19 PANDEMIC

Neither global pandemic nor rain nor wind of Tropical Storm Henri could stay new Yale School of Nursing (YSN) students from completion of orientation as the first class to conduct its application process during the COVID-19 public health crisis.

[Dean Ann Kurth](#) '90 MSN, PhD, CNM, MPH, FAAN saluted the future nurses for their willingness to #AnswerTheCall and join the nation's most trusted profession.

"You, the newest members of the Yale Nursing community, will no doubt leave your mark on YSN and Yale, making them stronger and better than they were before you arrived," Kurth said. "Thank you for choosing nursing—for answering the world's call at this crucial time—and for choosing Yale."



Dean Kurth also hailed YSN as an environment that fosters robust discussion and symbiotic teaching and learning among community members.

"During your time at Yale and YSN, you will engage in difficult conversations as well as hear perspectives that may challenge some of your previously held viewpoints," she said. "As a future nurse leader, it is imperative you enter these conversations with your colleagues and faculty with open minds and with grace."

"Allow your faculty to guide you as you join our caring and curious community of nurse scholars. We are here to learn from each other and grow together. It is as much a skillset to make change effectively, as it is a skillset to heal."

Student also heard welcoming remarks from Associate Dean of Student Life and Belonging [Saveena Dhall](#), who encouraged the audience to draw strength and camaraderie from the peers around them.

"Remember, this is your academic journey—whatever you were doing prior—working, finishing up your undergraduate studies, completing another graduate degree, or changing careers—you have chosen to bring nursing graduate studies into your life," Dhall said.

"Look at all of your peers joining you today. You all are on a collective path. Along with your faculty, staff, advisors & mentors, your peers are also a key part of your experience and journey at YSN. You are certainly not alone. We do this together."

Those peers include this year's [Orientation Leaders](#), a group that includes a Guinness World Record holder, ski instructor, Walt Disney World Magic Kingdom alum, and former standup comedian.

Participants in the multiple-day sessions included [Graduate Entry Prespecialty in Nursing](#) (GEPN)

students, who are not already Registered Nurses (RNs); MSN-entry students who are currently RNs, and students pursuing a post-master's certificate.

Sessions for the incoming class included a meeting with new GEPN Chair Dr. Sascha James-Contarelli, DNP, CNM, LM, FACNM, FAAN and tips for academic success from Lecturer in Nursing Wendy Mackey, APRN-BC, MSN, CORLN; Adult/Gerontology Acute Care Specialty Director Dr. Laura Andrews, PhD, APRN, ACNP-BC; and Psychiatric-Mental Health Specialty Director Dr. Andrée de Lissier '79 MSN, DNP, APRN, PMHCNS-BC.

Students also received an overview of West Campus and COVID compliance from Associate Dean of Strategic Operations and YSN Health and Safety Leader Marcia Thomas, EdD, MPH and Manager of Administration and Facilities Mary Grund.

Fall semester classes started in person and on campus August 30.



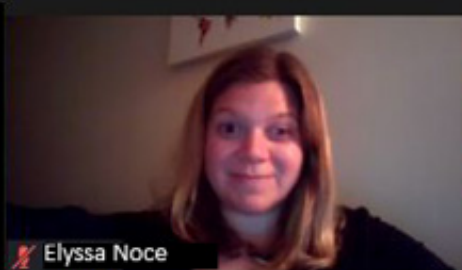
*Yale School of Nursing Alumni
Association board members
Zoomed through 2021.*




ALUMNI NEWS


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


 Elyssa Noce



 Caroline



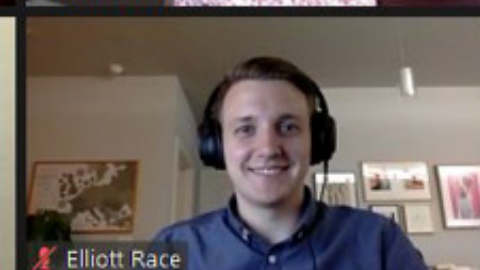
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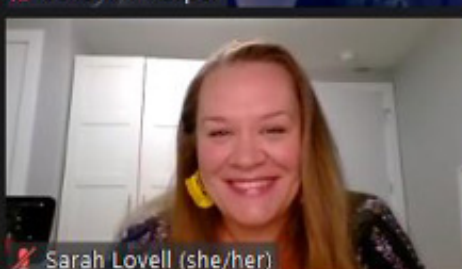
 Jonathan Harper




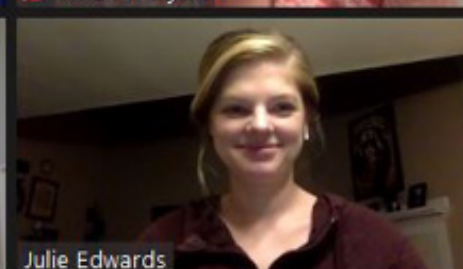
 Vivian Wanjohi




 Elliott Race




 Sarah Lovell (she/her)



 Julie Edwards



 Lydia Cristobal

Yale Honors Flinter '80 MSN for Dedication to Community Health, Innovation, and Training the Next Generation

Dr. Margaret Flinter '80 MSN, PhD, APRN, was honored this year with the Yale-Jefferson Award, a recognition of outstanding public service across a 40-year nursing career dedicated to providing high-quality primary care to vulnerable and underserved populations.

"Primary care in the U.S. would not be what it is today without the ingenuity and transformative leadership of Dr. Flinter," said Dean Ann Kurth '90 MSN, PhD, CNM, MPH, FAAN. "She believes that healthcare is a right, not a privilege, and she leads by example. Dr. Flinter has always truly exemplified YSN graduates answering the call."

PRIMARY CARE INNOVATION

"One of the most thrilling things in the world is to take an idea and turn it into something real," Dr. Flinter said. "I've had the pleasure of doing that many times with some terrific teams of people. When you commit yourself to doing something bigger and better, with more impact, and you do that every day with your heart and soul and mind, there is a unique satisfaction and pride that comes with it."

After graduating from Yale School of Nursing (YSN) in 1980, Dr. Flinter joined Community Health Center, Inc. (CHCI) headquartered in Middletown, CT as a National Health Service Corps Scholar and its first nurse practitioner. She currently serves as senior vice president and clinical director of the organization, which is committed to improving health outcomes and building healthier communities, particularly for vulnerable communities.

CHCI offers a suite of services including medical, dental, behavioral health and specialized support services to 150,000 patients across Connecticut in settings ranging from primary care centers to schools, homeless shelters, and via telehealth. She is also senior faculty and founder emeritus of its Weitzman Institute, which is dedicated to research, training, and innovation.

Working in partnership with CHCI's founder

and President/CEO Mark Masselli, Dr. Flinter has devoted most of her professional life to building CHCI into one of the nation's largest and most innovative federally qualified health centers (FQHCs). This designation recognizes primary care organizations that are non-profit, consumer controlled, and focus on underserved areas and populations who are most in need of comprehensive primary care.

Dr. Flinter has put particular focus on training the next generation of health care providers. In 2007, recognizing the enormous challenges and risk of burnout that new nurse practitioners faced in entering practice in community health centers, she developed a new model of formal postgraduate residency and fellowship training. She literally wrote the [book](#) on what has become a national model of postgraduate residency and fellowship programs in both primary care and specialty care.

CHCI's own NP Residency program, now with more than 100 alumni, has tracks for adult, family, pediatric and psychiatric/mental health nurse practitioners and a post-residency fellowship option. In 2015, she established the National Nurse Practitioner Residency and Fellowship Training Consortium as an accrediting, advocacy and membership organization to support the further development of this model.

Dr. Flinter is highly encouraging of people pursuing their own innovations.



"Believe in your idea and move it forward—why not?" she said. "Don't assume that it can't happen; and don't be deterred by naysayers if you believe in it. However, remember—just about everything takes a team, and change rarely happens overnight. I will forever be grateful that I have had the honor and privilege of working with so many extraordinary people in our pursuit of health care as a right, not a privilege—really outstanding, effective health care for people and communities who need it most."

PANDEMIC LEADERSHIP

Dr. Flinter highlights the important role CHCI has played throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. She recalls that the leadership team came together in early March 2020 to strategize on responding to the pandemic – not just with its own patients but from a public health perspective all across the state.

Within a short time, CHCI stood up mass drive-through COVID testing sites across the state and began planning for COVID vaccine deployment. In January 2021, as soon as COVID vaccines became available, CHCI launched the state's largest mass vaccine clinics. Flinter recalls that the organization took its usual holistic “Wherever You Are” approach to reaching people.

“Our teams worked night and day to create four mass-vaccination sites from scratch capable of vaccinating thousands of people a day, including the largest one at the decommissioned Pratt & Whitney airport runway in East Hartford,” Dr. Flinter said. “We outfitted the runways with trailers, generators, a water supply, lights, a wireless network, and portable bathrooms to support the effort. It was just amazing to see this ‘vaccine village’ rise up in a matter of days, giving thousands of COVID vaccines a day to people in the safety and comfort of their cars. It was equally powerful to see teams of CHCI staff—from every clinical discipline, from front line to leadership, and every department—out there seven days a week from the dead of winter to summer.”



Dr. Flinter (right) and her teams created four mass-vaccination sites from scratch capable of vaccinating thousands of people a day, including this one at the decommissioned Pratt & Whitney airport runway in East Hartford.

Dr. Flinter also acknowledged the work of hundreds of temporary staff, volunteers, and the National Guard. “We couldn’t have done it without all of them.”

They did not stop there. Seven days a week, CHCI deployed vaccination teams to churches, shelters, schools, parks, community centers and even people’s homes. The combined efforts ultimately resulted in the vaccination of 500,000 people. Dr. Flinter describes the experience as rewarding and uplifting.

“We’ve hit many walls of exhaustion during this pandemic, but what I hear most often is gratitude from our staff that they have been able to make a real contribution to protecting people from COVID. In return, they receive such appreciation from the people they are caring for—that carries you a long way. Our goal is to end this pandemic.”

YSN CLASS OF 1980 REUNION

Dr. Flinter described her YSN Class of 1980 Reunion as a bright spot in 2020. The virtual gathering—the first virtual YSN alumni reunion—drew in classmates from all over the country.

“My good friend and YSN classmate Shannon Fitzgerald ’80 MSN and I organized it and were thrilled to have more than half our class join us on a Saturday night for an evening of intense conversation. Dean Kurth joined us and shared what YSN is doing, particularly around diversity, equity and inclusion. It was incredible to talk in depth about our lives, work, and the powerful impact YSN had on us. My wish for all YSN students is to be able to develop relationships with each other and with faculty and alums that last long beyond the student years. I give YSN high marks for creating that culture and community.”

CELEBRATE SERVICE

The Yale-Jefferson Award was presented October 4 during a ceremony and fireside chat as part of Celebrate Service Week. The annual award salutes an alum, a graduate or professional school student, and a Yale College student who exemplify the leadership Yale strives to cultivate.

INVESTING IN YOUR FUTURE AND THE HEALTH OF YSN

Of all the gifts that pay you back, the charitable gift annuity (CGA) is the most simple, stable, and popular. In exchange for a gift of \$10,000 or more, Yale will make guaranteed, fixed payments for life to you or to one or two beneficiaries you select. When the annuity ends, the remainder is used by YSN for a purpose you choose.

The amount of the payments is based, in part, on the age of the annuitant when payments begin. Deferring payments allows you to wait until you may be in a lower tax bracket or need supplemental income. The longer you defer, the larger your payments will be.

Even in today's economy, Yale remains a significant investment opportunity and gift annuity rates are appealing. The payment rates on most gift annuities exceed the yields on CDs, treasury notes and bills, and money market funds. In many cases, you may increase your cash flow with a gift annuity. Your payments are fixed at the rates set when you establish the annuity. Yale annuities have no management or investment fees.

Yale University administers more than 1,000 gift annuities. Donors enjoy steady income, tax benefits, and the opportunity to strengthen the school with a meaningful legacy.

SAMPLE RATES FOR YALE'S IMMEDIATE AND DEFERRED CHARITABLE GIFT ANNUITIES

IMMEDIATE GIFT ANNUITY

Age	70	75	80	85	90
Rate	4.5%	5.5%	7.5%	10%	12%

DEFERRED CHARITABLE GIFT ANNUITIES (FOR PAYMENTS BEGINNING IN 7-15 YEARS)

Age	Deferred 7 Years	Deferred 10 Years	Deferred 15 Years
55	5%	5%	7%
60	5%	6%	10%
65	6.5%	8.5%	12%

Gift annuity minimum is \$10,000. These rates are for illustration purposes only and may vary depending on the timing of your gift. Annuity rates for two individuals are also available. If you are looking for long-term support for your retirement and the health of Yale School of Nursing, please contact gail.mcculloch@yale.edu for more information.

YSN ALUMNI ASSOCIATION ANNOUNCES BOARD MOVES

The Yale School of Nursing (YSN) Alumni Board recently shared leadership changes for the current and upcoming terms. The board partners with YSN alumni, current students and faculty, and the Yale Alumni Association (YAA).



Elyssa Noce '17 MSN



Courtney Farr '06 MSN, FNP, APRN-BC

"I am thrilled to announce that current YAA Delegate Elyssa Noce '17 MSN was unanimously approved by the alumni body as President-elect," said current President Christa Hartch '02 MSN, RN. "I am confident we are in very capable hands under her leadership." Noce will serve as President from 2022 to 2024.

Hartch also announced that Courtney Farr '06 MSN, FNP, APRN-BC as the new Yale Alumni Association Delegate for the 2021-24 term and praised Farr for her willingness to serve as a representative of YSN within the greater Yale community.

"Courtney is an outstanding YSN citizen and a great example of how to explore all areas of the Yale network even beyond YSN," Hartch said.

Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) student in the Class of 2023 Josephine Garcesa-Duque, MSN, RN, CCRN-K joins the group as a new Student Director. She joins Vivian Wanjohi Thigi '22 MSN and doctoral candidate Uzoji Nwanaji-Enwerem.

"This combination of talent lends a wonderful perspective to our board, and I am thankful to all our new

leaders and to the existing Board of Directors for all their hard work. It has been a privilege to serve alongside these very impressive and committed Yale nurses," Hartch said.

The Alumni Board of Directors generally works toward several goals. These include furthering the school's mission of better health for all people and strengthening YSN interests; promoting professional standards and educational advancement of nursing; promoting fellowship among YSN alumni; supporting collaboration between the student and alumni communities; and increasing the visibility of the school within Yale.

IN MEMORIAM

We have recently learned of the loss of these members of our community, and our condolences and best wishes go out to their families and loved ones. If you would like to share In Memoriam news, please send a note to ysn.communications@yale.edu.

ALUMNI

Charline T. Bridge	'48 M.N.
Kathryn S. Crowther	'45 M.N.
Shirley M. Edwards	'53 M.N.
Jeanne I. Finn	'85 MSN
Patricia A. Fisher	'89 MSN
Susan M. James	'83 MSN
Rebekah Kaplan	'89 MSN
Joan E. Mennie	'46 M.N.
Mary Jane Nickerson	'43 M.N.
Marjorie L. Ororke	'48 M.N.
Virginia M. Ross	'48 M.N.
Rhoda L. Sun	'58 M.N.

FORMER FACULTY

Catherine A. Lyons

TRAILBLAZERS

WELCOME IN NEW DNP PROGRAM

The new Post-Master's Clinical Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) program is designed for Advanced Practice Registered Nurses (APRNs) who have graduated from an MSN program and are interested in enhancing their clinical leadership skills and developing a clinical area of expertise in their practice area.

The Clinical DNP is tailored to APRNs working part- or full-time in a clinical role who would like to pursue doctoral education as they develop their clinical knowledge and experience. The Clinical DNP graduate will apply the knowledge gained in their course work and clinical collaborations to develop new clinical practices, processes, and roles that will contribute to better health for all people.

For questions or more information regarding the new Clinical DNP program, please contact the YSN Enrollment Management Office at nursing.yale.edu/office-enrollment-management.
The application deadline for Fall 2022 enrollment is January 15, 2022.





Learn how to lead—and change—health systems at Yale School of Nursing.

Our Health Care Leadership, Systems, and Policy DNP program is for accomplished advanced practice nurses who want to build on their experience and become innovative health leaders.

This DNP course of study is tailored for nurses who have significant professional experience and work commitments. Students collaborate on real-world problems, crafting solutions that span finance, government, clinical practice, evidence and data, and human behavior.

For questions or more information regarding this DNP program, please contact the YSN Admissions Office.

The application deadline for Fall 2022 enrollment is January 15, 2022.

nursing.yale.edu

CLASS

1979

Earlier this year, **Debi (Welch) Boyle '79 MSN** published a commentary piece in The Clinical Journal of Oncology Nursing about COVID-19's connection to cancer. She also co-authored an article in The Journal of Infusion Nursing on the emotional hazards associated with nursing.

1982

Clinical Nurse Specialist **Luc R. Pelletier '82 MSN, APRN, PMHCNS-BC, FAAN**, recently co-authored two peer-reviewed articles and a textbook chapter:



PHOTO CREDIT: CAROL SONSTEIN

- Journal of Nursing Administration published "A 1-year accredited nurse residency program's effect on intent to leave."
- American Nurse Journal published "Words matter: Scripting for clinical nurses to enhance patient engagement."
- For the seventh edition of Leadership and nursing care management, Pelletier contributed a chapter on quality and safety.

2004

Amy Romano '04 MSN, '15 MBA, CNM, FACNM, recently co-authored a blog for HealthAffairs.org establishing the rationale for a national plan for Medicare for All Pregnancies. The plan seeks to achieve universal coverage for services related to maternal, perinatal, and infant care; address systemic failures in the historic financing and management of care for childbearing families; and seek to remedy chronic disparities in access to high-quality care.

2010

Vic Tolentino '10 MSN, JD, MPH, NP, was recently selected for the American Society for Healthcare Risk Management's 2021 Writing Excellence Award for his article "The effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on risk management practice: A report from the epicenter of the epicenter in New York City."



Rakiya N. Watts '10 MSN recently became a clinical instructor at the Stony Brook University School of Nursing. Watts is a certified nurse midwife and holds a dual appointment as a clinical instructor with Stony Brook Medicine. She has held previous positions at Jamaica Hospital Medical Center as a midwife and with the OB/GYN Group of

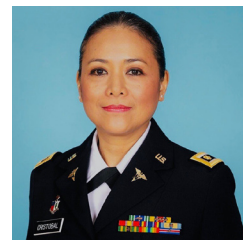
Manchester in Manchester, Connecticut as a registered nurse. She was recognized with the Outstanding Preceptor Award by the American College of Nurse-Midwives in May 2020.

2016

Dr. Stephan Davis '16 DNP, MHSA, NEA-BC, CENP, CNE, FACHE, recently made a guest appearance on the "Vital Voices" podcast from the Josiah Macy Jr. Foundation to discuss LGBTQ+ inclusion in the learning environments of health professions. A strong advocate in this space, Davis currently serves as director of the Master of Health Administration program at the University of North Texas Health Center's School of Public Health.



U.S. Army veteran **Dr. Lydia Cristobal '16 DNP, LNHA, RN-BC, NEA-BC, FACHE** reflected on her nursing career and her military service at a Veterans Day event with the Yale Alumni Association and two current YSN students. Dr. Cristobal is



NOTES

a healthcare executive who specializes in post-acute and geriatric care and shared her story from her Army recruitment through the policy and advocacy work she engages in today.

2018

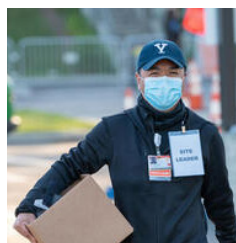
Lars Gjerde '18 MSN, AGACNP-BC, was recently promoted to NP Supervisor for a new hospitalist advanced practice team at UC Davis Medical Center in Sacramento, California. He is

breaking new ground for Advanced Practice Providers (APPs) within the Department of Internal Medicine and the hospitalist service has shown great appreciation for its new collaboration with APPs. Lars came to the hospital as a Trauma NP Fellow and has since worked as a Float NP in surgical services at the Level I trauma center.

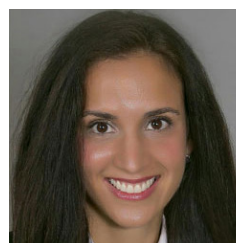


was recently promoted to the role of Assistant Medical Group Administrator and Chief Nursing Officer (CNO) at Kaiser Permanente (KP). Her previous leadership roles include Pediatric Specialty Clinics Manager, Assistant Director of Imaging and Administrative Director of clinic and facility operations, all at KP.

Dr. Ron Yolo '21 DNP, MBA, MSN, was recently promoted to Chief Nursing Officer (CNO) of the Southern California Division of CommonSpirit Health, where he will be responsible for the nursing enterprise of 18 hospitals. Earlier this year, Yolo was also honored for his exceptional humanity at a Covid-19 mass-vaccination site in Los Angeles County, California.



Dr. Esther Moas '21 DNP, MS, RN, was recently promoted to become the new Vice President of Care Transitions for the Mount Sinai Health System. In this role, Dr. Moas is responsible for improving quality of care across the care continuum to reduce preventable admission, re-admissions, and total cost of care. She also



holds an adjunct faculty role at Mount Sinai's Phillips School of Nursing, where she teaches health policy.

2021

Health Care Leadership, Systems & Policy Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) program alumnus **Sylvia Miller-Martin '21 DNP, RN, NEA-BC**,



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Simulation Director Dr. Christine Rodriguez, DNP, APRN, FNP-BC, MDiv, MA assists students in a simulation exercise in a video clip from the Yale “for Humanity” campaign.



FACULTY AT THE FOREFRONT

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NELSON LEADS \$7 MILLION PILOT STUDY ON ENDING RACIAL INEQUITIES IN HIV

Yale School of Nursing (YSN) Professor [Dr. LaRon Nelson](#), PhD, RN, FNP, FNAP, FNYAM, FAAN is leading a \$7 million study funded by the National Institute of Allergy & Infectious Diseases at NIH to address disparities in HIV among Black men who have sex with men (MSM) by studying the effects of a multi-level intervention aiming to address intersecting social and structural barriers that impede population-level reductions in the rates of new HIV infections. The pilot study launched this summer, in the same year that marks four decades since AIDS was first discovered.

“There is a sense of urgency right now,” Dr. Nelson said. “The US has a goal to effectively end the HIV epidemic by 2030. In order to meet that goal, we need serious, bold solutions that match the complexity of the problem and we believe this project is a strong match for those needs.”

Dr. Nelson is co-chairing the study—titled HPTN 096—with a multi-disciplinary team of the HIV Prevention Trials Network (HPTN). The other co-chairs are Dr. Chris Beyrer of Johns Hopkins University Bloomberg School of Public Health and Dr. Robert Remien of Columbia University Department of Psychiatry.

He is also drawing on the expertise of YSN’s Professor of Nursing Dr. David Vlahov, PhD, RN, FAAN, another key member of the HPTN 096 protocol team. “David is providing expertise from his trailblazing work in HIV

prevention equity through developing and leveraging academic-community coalitions in Harlem and South Bronx,” Dr. Nelson said.

“LaRon’s study is drawing on the sharpest research and strongest data we have across four decades,” Vlahov said. “He knows that community partners are essential to reaching these populations and reducing the infection rate in a significant way.”

The study takes a community-driven health equity approach to HIV prevention that is status-neutral and uses an implementation science framework. It aims to reduce HIV infection rates by better optimizing the equitable deployment of existing clinical innovations such as HIV testing and Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP) that currently are not having an equitable impact on the epidemic among Black MSM, at least in part because of structural barriers.

“Many of the reasons these men do not access treatment are not behavioral,” Dr. Nelson said. “Barriers to care for Black MSM include lack of health insurance or employment, as well as interlocked HIV stigma, homophobia, and anti-Black racism that is institutionalized in healthcare systems.”



Dr. Nelson also pointed to the fragmented healthcare and human services landscape as another barrier to care.

The pilot will start in four cities — two serving as the control and the others receiving the intervention — and run through December 2022. It will be used to test the complex elements of the study and identify any areas needing adjustment. Then the large study will scale up to 14 additional communities throughout the South.

The larger study will be implemented for three years and then use data collected from 3,200 Black MSM to determine the intervention’s efficacy in increasing PrEP use while leveraging CDC surveillance data to determine whether the viral suppression rates have increased among Black MSM living with HIV.

In addition to his work in this area, Dr. Nelson is also the Associate Dean for Global Affairs & Planetary Health, Independence Foundation Professor, and Associate Professor of Nursing at YSN.



YALE CORPORATION AWARDS EMERITUS STATUS TO THREE FACULTY

The Yale Corporation recently awarded emeritus status to Nursing faculty Jane Dixon, PhD, Linda Honan '89 MSN, PhD, CNS-BC, RN, ANEF, FAAN, and Patricia Ryan-Krause '81 MSN, MS, PCPNP-BC.

"It is fitting that their decades of institutional knowledge, wisdom, and service are recognized through this honor, and I know I share in the school's gratitude that we will continue to benefit from their counsel," said Dean Ann Kurth '90 MSN, PhD, CNM, MPH, FAAN.



JANE DIXON, PHD

Dr. Dixon retired during the summer after 45 years of distinguished teaching at YSN. She has taught research methods and conducted research at the school since 1975.

One thrust of Dr. Dixon's scholarship is the development and modification of measures based on psychometric principles. She has led or collaborated on projects to develop various measures, including the Environmental Health Engagement Profile.

Dr. Dixon's current substantive focus is environment health, engagement of people in promoting healthy environments, people's concerns about environmental hazards which may affect health, and responses to hazards by those who are most affected.

Dr. Dixon was awarded the Annie Goodrich Award for Excellence in Teaching in 2006.



LINDA HONAN '89 MSN, PHD, CNS-BC, RN, ANEF, FAAN

Dr. Honan began teaching at YSN in 1986 and wrote the first medical surgical textbook for accelerated nursing programs. As the GEPN Program Director and Curriculum Coordinator for many years, she spearheaded several initiatives that combined the science of nursing with the university's tradition of humanities. "Looking Is Not Seeing and Listening Is Not Hearing" introduced students to the art galleries, the Center for Engineering and Innovative Design, and the School of Music.

She introduced countless children to the nursing profession with "Have Bones Will Travel," and she served an integral role in Power Day, an annual event with the School of Medicine and Physician Associate program that explores issues of power and control in health care.

As Associate Director of the Interprofessional Longitudinal Clinical Experience (ILCE) course, Dr. Honan helped ensure Yale's health profession students understand the interconnected and interdisciplinary natures of these fields. She founded the Creative Writing Awards, which celebrated its 18th year in 2021.

Dr. Honan is a recipient of the Donna Diers Mentorship Award from the Delta Mu chapter of Sigma Theta Tau and the Annie W. Goodrich Teaching Award by YSN. The University of Connecticut, her PhD alma mater, awarded her the Beverly Koerner Outstanding Alumni Award for Education in Nursing, and in 2019, the Yale Graduate and Professional Student Senate honored her at a special "Inspiring Yale" event featuring all women honorees in honor of the 50th and 150th anniversaries celebrating women at Yale.



PATRICIA RYAN-KRAUSE '81 MSN, MS, PCPNP-BC

Ryan-Krause has taught at YSN for thirty years, conveying to hundreds of pediatric and family nurse practitioner students the importance of patient-provider relationships and the integration of evidence-based care into clinical practice in a variety of settings.

She has been a driving force in YSN's global health program, serving as Interim Director of the Center for International Nursing Scholarship and Education and later becoming clinical coordinator in the Office of Global Health. Ryan-Krause launched the global health concentration at YSN in 2014 (now the global health track). For many students, one of the highlights of their YSN experience was her annual trip to Nicaragua and the Dominican Republic where Ryan-Krause has collaborated with community health workers to establish education and capacity-building programs.

A consummate Yale Nurse, Ryan-Krause has published and presented widely on refugee health, early childhood development, and education and capacity building in global settings. She practices at Yale New Haven Hospital, and she also serves as the nurse practitioner at the Pediatric Refugee Clinic at Yale Primary Care Center. She has also committed countless volunteer hours working with refugees at St. Thomas More Church in New Haven.

Ryan-Krause is a recipient of the Florence Wald Award for Nursing Practice by the Connecticut Nursing Association, the Global Health Award by the National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners, the Annie W. Goodrich Teaching Award by YSN, and the Florence Nightingale Award for Excellence in Nursing by the State of Connecticut.

ASSESSING AN INSOMNIA INTERVENTION FOR BLACK WOMEN

BY RICK HARRISON



When [Dr. Soohyun Nam](#), PhD, APRN, ANP-BC, FAHA meets with female members of predominantly Black churches, the conversation often shifts from her advertised topics of obesity and sleep difficulties to what the women perceive as the source of many of their health problems: stress.

When Dr. Soohyun Nam, PhD, APRN, ANP-BC, FAHA meets with female members of predominantly Black churches, the conversation often shifts from her advertised topics of obesity and sleep difficulties to what the women perceive as the source of many of their health problems: stress.

“We would be talking about eating and diet, and then all of a sudden it became about stress, stress, stress,” said Nam, Associate Professor of Nursing at Yale School of Nursing. “We all have stress, but as the data have shown us, women can experience more pervasive stress, and Black women often experience pervasive stress because of daily encounters with racial discrimination. And this has a significant impact on health.”

Excessive stress can lead to insomnia, a condition that is undertreated and more common in women than men. It is defined by sleep difficulties that are associated with anxiety, moodiness, fatigue, irritability, poor work performance, headaches, unhealthy

eating, and sedentary lifestyles. People with chronic insomnia are more likely to also have cardiometabolic disease — cardiovascular disease combined with obesity and diabetes. In fact, people who have insomnia are 41 percent more likely to have a heart attack and 55 percent more likely to develop coronary heart disease or have a stroke than people without the disorder.

“Insomnia is not just a sleep problem,” Nam said. “If we provide treatment to improve insomnia, maybe we can improve cardiometabolic health and save lives.”

Currently, 30 percent of American adults suffer from some form of insomnia, but the condition affects Black women disproportionately. For example, even when studies account for

socioeconomic status, Black women report shorter total sleep time than White women and greater difficulty falling asleep and staying asleep. However, there have been no studies published to date that focus on psycho-behavioral interventions for Black women to address their sleep deficits.

The most common treatments for insomnia are sleeping pills, which carry the risks of side effects, tolerance, and dependence without addressing the underlying causes of sleeplessness. The most common non-pharmaceutical therapy for insomnia is called cognitive behavioral therapy (CBT), an evidence-based treatment that seeks to help patients develop coping skills and change the way they think, feel, and behave. While used for conditions as diverse as depression, anxiety, and substance use disorders, CBT for insomnia can be difficult for much of the public to access because of cost and its practice being largely limited to academic medical centers. In addition, although effective, CBT only prevents recurrence of the insomnia 40 percent of the time.

With a grant from Women's Health Research at Yale, Dr. Nam is testing — for the first time — an evidence-based stress-reduction intervention for insomnia that has shown potential for addressing the underlying causes of sleep difficulty in a manner culturally sensitive to the needs of Black women.

“When lying down in bed, someone might fixate on a troubling incident from earlier in the day, leaving her hyper-aroused and unable to sleep,” Nam said. “This triggers worries about not sleeping and not functioning the following day, which makes it even harder to fall asleep. We need to break that cycle.”

Dr. Nam's approach uses a mindfulness-based therapy for insomnia (MBTI), an eight-week group therapy program in which participants gain an awareness

of their thoughts that fuel the stress they feel and the skills to regulate their responses to stress. The program includes daily home practice and is designed to cultivate non-judgement, self-compassion, and present-focused awareness.

In this study, Nam and her team are comparing the amount and quality of sleep experienced by the MBTI participants with another randomly assigned group receiving general education in healthy eating, physical activity, and proper sleeping strategies.

Insomnia is not just a sleep problem. If we provide treatment to improve insomnia, maybe we can improve cardiometabolic health and save lives. Participants are measuring their body weight and height using portable electronic devices and evaluating daily stresses and sleep practices through remotely conducted surveys. Participants are wearing a device on their wrist called an actigraph to detect periods of activity and rest, supplemented with a daily diary and text message reminders. The researchers are also using home saliva kits to collect and analyze samples for levels of cortisol, a hormone associated with stress.

Dr. Nam anticipates that the group receiving the MBTI intervention will show improved sleeping results and reduced levels of stress compared with the control group. With these data, she plans to design a much larger trial to justify the widespread dissemination of this intervention for the benefit of this underserved population of women.

“Mindfulness focuses on how you live with the stress, not just get rid of it,” she said. “You regulate your emotion. And hopefully, we can help women achieve the rest they need so they can better maintain their health and well-being.”



Dr. Soohyun Nam (right) meets with Ann Greene, former community research liaison for Yale School of Medicine's National Clinician Scholars Program. Dr. Nam is leading a study to test — for the first time — an evidence-based stress-reduction intervention for insomnia that has shown potential for addressing the underlying causes of sleep difficulty in a manner culturally sensitive to the needs of Black women.

NEW AWARD TO STUDY RISK MODEL FOR FRACTURES IN PERSONS WITH HIV

BY JULIE PARRY

In people living with HIV, the disease itself, along with medications to treat the infection can cause long term side effects. Fragility fractures have been shown to occur at a higher rate in persons with HIV, than in their uninfected counterparts and has led to over \$99 million in excess costs annually nationwide.



*Julie Womack,
PhD, CNM, FNP-BC*

*Evelyn Hsieh,
MD, PhD*

Yale School of Medicine and Yale School of Nursing researchers have been awarded a new R01 grant to develop, validate, and disseminate a risk assessment tool to predict fragility fractures in persons with HIV.

“These fractures are associated with increased rates of hospital and nursing home admissions, along with long-term physical disability, social isolation, and death,” said co-PI Evelyn Hsieh, MD, PhD, assistant professor of medicine (rheumatology, allergy and immunology) at Yale School of Medicine; and chief of rheumatology at VA Connecticut Healthcare. “We know that

most of these fractures occur in middle age, so they can also cause economic hardship and poor health outcomes as these patients age.”

Associate Professor of Nursing at Yale School of Nursing [Julie Womack](#), PhD, CNM, FNP-BC, serves as co-PI with Donroe on the study.

“Because of the numerous ramifications of these fractures, we are setting out to create and test a risk assessment tool based on the Fracture Risk Assessment Tool (FRAX) that will incorporate the HIV-relevant risks into the model.”

While FRAX includes demographic information and key risk factors for a general population, it does not account for additional factors that are important for people with HIV, such as falls, co-infections including hepatitis C and B, substance use disorders, polypharmacy, and more said Hsieh.

The team will create a Fracture Risk Assessment Calculator, based on FRAX, but that incorporates HIV-relevant risk factors (FRAC-HIV) to calculate the probability of a fracture within the next year. They will use data from the Veterans Aging Cohort Study to develop the model, and will validate the tool using electronic health record data from Yale New Haven Health and Boston University School of Medicine.

Awarded by the National Institutes of Health, the five-year grant for \$2,425,731 began in July 2021 and runs through June 2026.

Other collaborators include Yale School of Medicine’s Amy Justice, MD, PhD; Cynthia Brandt, MD, MPH; Samah Fodeh, PhD; Terrence Murphy, PhD; Farah Kidwai-Khan; Linda Leo-Summers; Rixin Wang, PhD; F. Perry Wilson, MD, MSCE; and Claudia Coronel-Moreno.

Boston University School of Medicine contributors include Richard Saitz, MD, MPH, FACP, DFASAM; William Adams; and Kara Magane.

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- Janet R. Rimm '04 MSN, APRN, BC

*Honored as an outstanding Psychiatric-Mental Health
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CALL THE MIDWIVES

**YALE NURSING CLINICIANS
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Yale School of Nursing (YSN) is full of clinicians who love pregnancy and babies. Studying them, researching them, and teaching the next generation of midwives all about them. Pregnant members of the community walking the halls have been known to sharpen a keen sense of any midwives in the building “just in case!”

Midwifery Week ran October 3-9 and offered an opportunity to explore the clinical practice, teaching, policy work, and research of these faculty who have dedicated their careers to providing the highest quality care to childbearing individuals and the best outcomes for their children.

ALTERNATIVE MODELS OF MATERNITY CARE

“Many midwives are drawn to the excitement around pregnancy and birth and have a passion for changing the way health care is provided,” said Associate Professor of Nursing [Dr. Gina Novick](#) ’83 MSN, ’09 PhD, CNM, FACNM. “Group prenatal care is a person-centered approach that empowers patients and gives them the opportunity to become agents in their own care.”

A longstanding member of the YSN faculty, Novick pursues a range of research and policy interests that focus on understanding and implementing alternatives to conventional models of maternity care, such as group prenatal care. In this model, groups of 8-12 patients with similar due dates and their significant others come together to receive prenatal care in a group setting.

When they arrive, patients take their own weight and blood pressure and then a prenatal abdominal exam is conducted by a prenatal care provider (such as a midwife) off to the side. After patients are examined there is facilitated group discussion for 60-90 minutes. Topics range from common pregnancy discomforts, nutrition, and baby care to preparation for childbirth and pain relief in labor. An important part of the experience for patients is the connection participants develop with others in the room.

Novick said research indicates that this evidence-based model reduces preterm birth, reduces racial and ethnic health disparities, and improves psychological and social outcomes. And it gets great reviews from patients and providers. Before COVID-19 hit Connecticut, Novick had been working on reintroducing the model to Yale New Haven Health with her colleagues and is hopeful she can continue that work when the pandemic recedes.

CHILDBEARING INDIVIDUALS AND COVID-19

Women’s Health Nurse Practitioner Specialty Director [Dr. Tamika Julien](#), DNP, CNM, WHNP-BC, CLC has nearly a decade of clinical experience as a women’s health nurse practitioner in a federally qualified community health center (FQHC) and has worked extensively with adolescents. As a certified lactation counselor, her doctoral research focused on improving exclusive breastfeeding rates in the immediate postpartum period.

Dr. Julien arrived at YSN in January 2020, just before COVID-19 closed the majority of the school for the rest of the year. She is working towards continuing her research to promote and increase exclusive breastfeeding. Dr. Julien is currently partnering with [Dr. Joan Combellick](#) ’91 MSN, PhD, MPH, CNM, FACNM to research how COVID-19 impacted childbearing individuals who gave birth during the pandemic.

As Dr. Julien told *Yale Nursing Matters* magazine in the previous issue, “We saw how the pandemic underscored the importance of the midwifery model of care. Childbearing individuals wanted to be heard, have their needs valued, and appreciated shared decision making. We had childbearing individuals who changed their birth plans in the middle of their pregnancy to seek midwifery care with interest in a home birth or birth center because of COVID-19 concerns.”

SIMULTANEOUS TEACHING & LEARNING

[Erin Morelli](#) ’02 MSN, CNM, CLC, FACNM, is the Director of the Midwifery Faculty Practice, a collaborative full-scope practice at Yale-New Haven Hospital, Cornell Scott Hill Health Center, and Yale Medicine. Morelli is currently pursuing her PhD and her research interests include midwifery pedagogy, role transition, collaborative practice in obstetrics, and use of early labor tools such as walking paths to delay admission in early labor. She also is a certified lactation counselor and is passionate about supporting lactation.

In addition to clinical practice, Morelli also teaches every semester and introduced a new assignment and activity on health disparities for GEPN students in the spring with [Dr. Sascha James-Contarelli](#), DNP, CNM, LM, FACNM and [Wendy Mackey](#) ’93 MSN, APRN-BC, MSN, CORLN. At the end of the fall semester, her first-year midwifery students will test their skills in an OB Escape Room exercise.

Morelli is the chair of the YSN Academic Success Team (AST) that works with students who are experiencing life/health events that are impacting their learning. She also co-chairs the American College of Nurse-Midwives Student and New Midwives Committee. Earlier this year, she was honored with the Nightingale Award for Excellence in Nursing.

A COLLABORATIVE AND GLOBAL MODEL

In addition to serving as the PI of the Birth During COVID Study, Interim Nurse-Midwifery Specialty Co-Director Dr. Combellick conducts ongoing research at the nearby West Haven VA Medical Center. Her work with veterans relates to severe maternal morbidity and mortality and the intersection of maternity care and mental health care services, especially in the area of chronic stress and trauma.

[Dr. Michelle Telfer](#), DNP, MPH, CNM, FACNM, also an Interim Nurse-Midwifery Specialty Co-Director, has created a thriving partnership with Makerere University in Kampala, Uganda and Mother Health International in Atiak, Uganda to allow midwives, residents, and midwifery students from Uganda, Rwanda, and YSN to experience the midwifery model of care

and physiologic birth in the clinical setting. She has a strong focus in global public health and an ongoing program of research that relates to exercise and pregnancy.

In an example of the collaborative and global nature of midwifery, Dr. Combellick and Dr. Telfer joined forces to launch YSN's first Coursera course in 2020, "Global Quality Maternal and Newborn Care." More than 6,500 students have enrolled in the free online course designed for health administrators, policy makers, clinicians, and advocates.

One user described the class this way: "This was an incredibly insightful and well-taught course. I was so appreciative to break away from fully Western standards, to learn from educators all over the world. This was a person-centered, inclusive, and culturally sensitive course that was thoroughly enjoyable and useful."

INTERNATIONALLY RECOGNIZED RESEARCH

The Coursera course is based on a landmark 2014 Lancet journal series on midwifery co-authored by Helen Varney Professor of Midwifery [Dr. Holly Powell Kennedy](#), PhD, CNM, FACNM, FAAN, an internationally renowned researcher.

Dr. Kennedy is also deeply involved in the Quality Maternal & Newborn Care Research Alliance that brings international researchers together to collaborate on research priorities identified as a result of the Lancet series.

Professor Kennedy also cohosted the international conference "Normal Labor & Birth: 20 Years of Evidence and Debate" in early December. The summit is cohosted by YSN and Professor Soo Downe at the University of Central Lancaster in the United Kingdom. 2021 marks two decades of researchers gathering to share and debate the evidence on supporting normal, physiologic labor.

BETTER HEALTH POLICY THROUGH MIDWIFERY

A practicing midwife for nearly two decades, Dr. James-Conterelli, is the new Chair of the Graduate Entry Prespecialty in Nursing (GEPN) program.

In addition to her clinical practice, Dr. James-Conterelli has also pursued policy and advocacy work. She served as a member of the COVID-19 Maternity Task Force for the state of New York and co-chaired a Maternal Mortality and Racial Disparities Task Force at the state level. Dr. James-Conterelli sat on New York State's Maternal Mortality Steering Committee and the New York State Maternal Mortality Review Board.

In a few weeks, Dr. James-Conterelli is being honored as the recipient of the 2021 Diane O. McGivern Legislative and Policy Award in recognition of her outstanding work in legislation and policy on behalf of professional nursing. Later this month, she will also celebrate induction as a Fellow in the American Academy of Nursing.

INTERDISCIPLINARY SOCIAL JUSTICE

As a student at YSN, [Ashley Draper](#) '16 MSN, CNM enrolled in the US Health Justice pilot course designed for future nurses, doctors, and physician associates. Now a Lecturer in Nursing, Draper serves as a Faculty Advisor for the same class.

The course aims to "teach health profession students about health inequities that manifest as a result of social marginalization and structural inequities," as well as how to address those inequities as future providers. Objectives include gaining anti-oppressive, trauma-informed clinical skills, training provider activists and organizers, and advancing health justice in classrooms, clinical practices, and across the country.

In this model, the not-for-credit course is completely student-run by elected leaders who took the class the previous year, and Faculty Advisors provide assistance. Student leaders design the curriculum and facilitate the classes each week, often welcoming community leaders and activists. Enrollment is limited to about 30 students to allow for the intimacy of deep discussion.

"It is our job as healthcare providers to be knowledgeable not only in nursing and medicine, but the systems within which we work, and our patients live," Draper said. "We cannot even begin to effectively address our patients' healthcare needs without looking through the lens of racial, social, reproductive, and environmental justice."



From top to bottom and left to right: Gina Novick, Tamika Julien, Joan Combellick, Erin Morelli, Sascha James-Conterelli, Michelle Telfer, Holly Powell Kennedy, Ash Draper.



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— Rachel Romero '22 MSN,
Family Nurse Practitioner

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2020–2021 Faculty Publications

Faculty Publications: May – November 2021. Faculty affiliates are in bold.

- Akiyama, M. J., Muller, A., Huang, O., Lizcano, J., Nyakowa, M., Riback, L., Ross, J., Bundi, H., Kulabi, E. S., Mwangi, A. M., Musyoki, H., Cherutich, P., & **Kurth, A.** (2021). Hepatitis c-related knowledge, attitudes and perceived risk behaviours among people who inject drugs in Kenya: A qualitative study. *Global Public Health*. <https://doi.org/10.1080/17441692.2021.1896763>
- Arnsten, A. F. T., **Condon, E. M.**, Dettmer, A. M., Gee, D. G., Lee, K. S., Mayes, L. C., Stover, C. S., & Tseng, W. L. (2021). The prefrontal cortex in a pandemic: Restoring functions with system-, family-, and individual-focused interventions. *American Psychologist*. <https://doi.org/10.1037/amp0000823>
- Arum, C., Fraser, H., Artenie, A. A., Bivegete, S., Trickey, A., Alary, M., Astemborski, J., Debeck, K., Dietze, P., Dumchev, K., Hayashi, K., Hellard, M., Hickman, M., Hope, V., Iversen, J., Judd, A., **Kurth, A. E.**, Cherutich, P., Leclerc, P., & Lim, A. (2021). Homelessness, unstable housing and risk of hiv and hepatitis c virus acquisition among people who inject drugs - a systematic review and metaanalysis...The Canadian association for the study of the liver (CASL), the Canadian network on hepatitis c (CANHEPC) and the Canadian Association of Hepatology Nurses (CAHN), Canadian liver meeting (virtual), May 2-5, 2021. *Canadian Liver Journal*, 4(2), 120-121.
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